



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Arnold Huftalen
Assistant United States Attorney
(603) 225-1552

SUNAPEE MAN SENTENCED FOR INTERNET BOMB THREATS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Kenneth W. Kaiser, and Sunapee Police Chief David P. Cahill, reports that 24 year-old Michael Rutter of Sunapee, New Hampshire, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court to a 2 year term of probation, 6 months of home confinement, and a \$2,000 fine for having sent bomb threats over the Internet to two Florida banks in May of 2003 in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e). The Court also ordered that any computer and Internet use by Rutter must be monitored by his supervising probation officer.

On May 18, 2004, Rutter appeared in federal court and admitted that he sent three e-mail bomb threats from his home in Sunapee, New Hampshire to banks in Florida. Specifically, on May 13, 2003 at 8:22 PM he sent an e-mail bomb threat which read, "bomb May 15th @ 1:30 PM" to the First National Bank of South Florida in Homestead, Florida. On May 14, 2003 at 9:23 PM he sent an e-mail bomb threat which read, "bomb will go off at 14:00" to the Raymond James Bank in St. Petersburg, Florida. Finally, on May 23, 2003 at 5:58 AM he sent a second e-mail bomb threat which read, "bomb at 14:00" to the First National Bank of South Florida in Homestead, Florida. The FBI investigated the threats in Florida. They reviewed Internet connection records and determined that each of the three bomb threats appeared to have originated in Sunapee, New Hampshire. The New Hampshire FBI, with the assistance of the Sunapee, NH Police Department, obtained a search warrant for Mr. Rutter's residence. On June 11, 2003, a search was executed at Rutter's residence and three computers along with other computer evidence was seized.

After the sentence was imposed, U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, "This case is a testament to the FBI's ability to track down those who use the Internet for criminal purposes. Fortunately, in this case, no evidence was uncovered tending to show that Mr. Rutter ever intended to act on the threats. The defendant never did any business with either of the banks he threatened. The threats appear to have been random acts. Nonetheless, the FBI and this Office will continue to vigorously pursue any and all threats made using the Internet."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Arnold Huftalen.